

PRESS RELEASE

November 16, 1990

Contact: Cynthia S. Hanson

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART TO SHOW SPECIAL FILM AND CREATE SCULPTURE FOR AIDS AWARENESS ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1990

The Cleveland Museum of Art has planned two special events for Saturday, December 1, in observance of **A Day Without Art**, a national day of action and mourning in response to the AIDS crisis. The film Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt will be shown at 2 pm, and throughout the day Museum visitors are invited to create a temporary floor sculpture commemorating those who have died from or are afflicted with AIDS. Both events are free of charge.

The Film

The film Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt, which received an Academy Award in 1989 for Best Feature Documentary, tells the stories of five people of the many thousands commemorated in the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, which now covers 14 acres. A gay Olympic athlete, an 11-year-old hemophiliac, and an IV-drug user are among those in the film whose names are on the quilt. Common Threads proclaims the humanity behind the cold statistics of the epidemic.

Dustin Hoffman narrates the history of the first decade of AIDS in America, with original music by Bobby McFerrin. Robert Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman directed the film, which is a co-production of A Telling Pictures and Couturie Company. The 16mm color film lasts 79 minutes and will be shown on a full screen in the Recital Hall.

The Sculpture

The North Lobby will be the site for the creation of a memorial sculpture placed on the floor. The Museum will supply black square linoleum tiles on which visitors are invited to write the names or initials of those they know who have died from or are living with AIDS, along with any personal messages to those with AIDS. Individuals may place the tiles on the floor and together create a temporary installation piece which will be displayed for the day. The Museum is open from 9 am to 4:45 pm on Saturdays.

#